

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, EDUCATION & EARLY HELP SERVICES

TO:	Health and Wellbeing Board		
DATE:	17 July 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	11
TITLE:	Update report on Information Sharing work being taken forward by the LSCB		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	Cllr Jan Gavin	PORTFOLIO:	Children's Services
SERVICE:	Children's Services	WARDS:	All
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 A joint letter from Government Ministers, dated 3rd March 2015, was sent to all Chief Executives, Directors of Children's Services, Local Safeguarding Children Boards and Health and Wellbeing Boards. It follows the publication of the Government response to the child sexual exploitation cases in Rotherham and states that a key factor in keeping children safe is the effective sharing of information.
- 1.2 This letter was discussed at the Reading Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) on 5th March, with actions agreed to review the existing Information Sharing Protocol and produce a revised document.
- 1.3 The Health and Wellbeing Board were asked to note the contents of the Ministers letter and sign up to the principles it contained at the meeting on 17th April 2015.
- 1.4 This is a brief update report to the Health and Wellbeing Board, on the progress of the LSCB Information Sharing Task and Finish Group.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

No action required; report is for information only.

3. REPORT

- 3.1 The LSCB Information Sharing Task and Finish Sub Group met for the first time on 5th May 2015. Much of the session was spent agreeing the remit of the group and clarifying the need for a clear protocol.

- 3.2 There was unanimous agreement that CSE is a current high risk area and the need for a clear information sharing protocol on this topic was vital to support front line staff to make appropriate decisions.
- 3.3 A draft document has already been produced in West Berkshire, so the group will review this with a view that moving towards a West of Berkshire or Pan Berkshire approach would be beneficial for many agencies that span more than one local authority/LSCB area.
- 3.4 The LSCB held a challenge session looking specifically at CSE on 2nd June 2015, and this again confirmed the need for clear information sharing processes specific to this cohort of vulnerable young people. The different organisations within Health do not all use the same database, so sharing information between Health colleagues, such as details of presentations at Accident and Emergency and Health Visitors needs clarity.
- 3.4 The group will consider the current Reading Information Sharing Protocol against the LSCB Procedures and recent Government guidance and make any recommended changes. All partners will be asked for written agreement that they sign up to the protocol.
- 3.5 The group agreed that the information sharing documents being produced for the MASH should continue separately so as not to be delayed, and would likely help to inform any changes to current documentation in due course.
- 3.6 The group is due to meet again in the next couple of months (date to be set), with actions expected to be completed by then. A further report to the Health and Wellbeing Board can be produced at that time if required.

4. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 4.1 This work meets the following Corporate Plan priorities:
1. Safeguarding and protecting those that are most vulnerable;
 2. Providing the best start in life through education, early help and healthy living;
- 4.2 Plus the following Strategic Aim:
- To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been carried out for this report however, equality and diversity continues to be a key theme for the LSCB.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A protocol, signed up to by all partner agencies, must be in place to allow effective and appropriate sharing of information and data for the protection of children and young people.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Letter from Ministers dated 3rd March 2015
- Reading Children's Trust Information Sharing Protocol